

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A stent, comprising:

a cylindrical body having a plurality of rings aligned along a common longitudinal axis, the rings including struts defining a plurality of first peaks and a plurality of second peaks;

at least one link connecting a second peak of one ring with a second peak of another ring and having an undulating portion; and

at least one peak adjacent each link having struts defining a shorter longitudinal length than another first peak adjacent the link to thereby provide a space for the undulating portion;

wherein each link has two circumferentially extending transitions and of the plurality of second peaks only those second peaks of adjacent rings connected by a link are in phase.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of first peaks of adjacent rings are out of phase.

4. (Currently Amended) A [The]stent, [of claim 1], comprising:
a cylindrical body having a plurality of rings aligned along a common longitudinal
axis, the rings including struts defining a plurality of first peaks and a plurality of second
peaks;

at least one link connecting a second peak of one ring with a second peak of
another ring and having an undulating portion; and

at least one peak adjacent each link having struts defining a shorter longitudinal
length than another first peak adjacent the link to thereby provide a space for the
undulating portion;

wherein each link has two circumferentially extending transitions and each ring has six second peaks and six first peaks, three of the first peaks defined by struts which are shorter than struts defining other first peaks and spaced in an alternating pattern around a circumference of the ring.

5. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 4, wherein the first peaks and second peaks of longitudinally adjacent rings are configured such that only three second peaks of adjacent rings are aligned.

6. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 5, wherein the three aligned second peaks of longitudinally adjacent rings are connected by links, each link having an undulating portion characterized by two circumferentially extending transitions.

7. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the stent is formed from metal.

8. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 7, wherein the metal is taken from the group of metals including stainless steel, titanium, nickel-titanium, cobalt-chromium, cobalt-chromium-vanadium, cobalt-chromium-tungsten, gold, silver, platinum, or platinum iridium.

9. (canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein each link has three circumferentially extending transitions.

11. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, each link further comprising transitions extending generally perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the stent, the perpendicular transitions having a long portion directed towards an adjacent shortened first peak and a relatively shorter portion directed towards an adjacent longer first peak.

12. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein all the second peaks of adjacent rings are connected by links.

13. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein all links have undulating portions.

14. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the links have varied lengths.

15. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the struts have varied thicknesses.

16. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein the struts have varied widths.

17. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein at least one ring has a different number of first peaks than another ring of the stent

18. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1, wherein at least one ring has a different number of second peaks than another ring of the stent.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A stent, comprising:
a cylindrical body having a plurality of rings aligned along a common longitudinal axis, the rings including struts defining a plurality of first peaks and a plurality of second peaks;

at least one link connecting a second peak of one ring with a second peak of another ring and having an undulating portion;

at least one peak adjacent each link having struts defining a shorter longitudinal length than another first peak adjacent the link to thereby provide a space for the undulating portion;

wherein each ring has six second peaks and six first peaks, three of the first peaks defined by struts which are shorter than struts defining other first peaks and spaced in an alternating pattern around a circumference of the ring; and

wherein the first peaks and second peaks of longitudinally adjacent rings are configured such that only three second peaks of adjacent rings are aligned;

wherein each link has two circumferentially extending transitions.